

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

PROPOSED HEARING PROCEDURES
FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINT NO. R9-2009-0089
ISSUED TO
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
VIOLATIONS OF ORDER NO. R9-2007-0001

SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2010

PLEASE READ THIS HEARING PROCEDURE CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF YOUR DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Background

The Assistant Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) issued Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaint No. R9-2009-0089 (Complaint) pursuant to Water Code section 13323 against the County of San Diego (County) alleging that it violated Order No. R9-2007-0001. The Complaint proposes that administrative civil liability in the amount of \$77,800 be imposed as authorized by Water Code section 13385. Unless the Discharger waives its right to a hearing and pays the proposed liability, a hearing will be held before the Regional Board during its meeting of February 10, 2010, in San Diego.

Purpose of Hearing

The purpose of the hearing is to receive relevant evidence and testimony regarding the proposed ACL Complaint. At the hearing, the Regional Board will consider whether to adopt, modify, or reject the proposed assessment.

The public hearing on February 10, 2010, will commence as announced in our Regional Board meeting agenda. The meeting will be held at the Regional Board Office at 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, in San Diego. An agenda for the meeting will be issued at least ten days before the meeting and will be posted on the Regional Board's web page at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego.

Hearing Procedures

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with this hearing procedure. This proposed draft version of the hearing procedure has been prepared by the Prosecution Team, and is subject to revision and approval by the Regional Board's Advisory Team. A copy of the procedures governing an adjudicatory hearing before the Regional Board may be found at Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, section 648 et seq., and is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> or upon request. In accordance with section 648, subdivision (d), any procedure not provided by this Hearing Procedure is deemed waived. Except as provided in Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations

(CCR), section 648(b), Chapter 5 of the Administrative Procedures Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to adjudicatory hearings before the Regional Board. This Notice provides additional requirements and deadlines related to the proceeding.

THE PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES HEREIN MAY BE AMENDED BY THE ADVISORY TEAM IN ITS DISCRETION. **ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE HEARING PROCEDURE MUST BE RECEIVED BY CATHERINE HAGAN, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14, 2009, OR THEY WILL BE WAIVED.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE EXCLUSION OF DOCUMENTS AND/OR TESTIMONY.

Hearing Participation

Participants in this proceeding are designated as either “parties” or “interested persons.” “Designated parties” to the hearing may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses and are subject to cross-examination. “Interested persons” may present non-evidentiary policy statements, but may not cross-examine witnesses and are not subject to cross-examination. Interested persons generally may not present evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data). Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from the Regional Board, staff or others, at the discretion of the Regional Board.

The following participants are hereby designated as parties in this proceeding:

1. Regional Board Prosecution Staff
2. County of San Diego Staff

Requesting Designated Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a “designated party,” and not already listed above, shall request “designated party” status by submitting a request in writing (with copies to the existing “designated parties”) no later than 5 p.m. on **December 14, 2009**, to Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, at the address set forth above. The request shall include an explanation of the basis for status as a “designated party” (e.g., how the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the potential actions by the Regional Board affect the person), the information required of “designated parties” as provided below, and a statement explaining why the party or parties designated above do not adequately represent the person’s interest. Any opposition to the request must be submitted by 5 p.m. on **December 21, 2009**. The parties will be notified by 5 p.m. on **December 31, 2009**, as to whether the request has been granted or denied.

Contacts:

Advisory Staff:

Catherine Hagan (George), Esq.
Senior Staff Counsel
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353
chagan@waterboards.ca.gov

David W. Gibson, Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353
dgibson@waterboards.ca.gov

Prosecution Staff:

David Boyers
Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Enforcement
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812
dboyers@waterboards.ca.gov

Laura Drabandt, Esq.
Staff Counsel
State Water Resources Control Board
Office of Enforcement
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812
ldrabandt@waterboards.ca.gov

Jeremy Haas
Senior Environmental Scientist
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353
jhaas@waterboards.ca.gov

Michael McCann
Assistant Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353
mmcann@waterboards.ca.gov

Frank Melbourn
Water Resource Control Engineer
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4353
fmelbourn@waterboards.ca.gov

County Staff:

Chandra L. Wallar
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
County of San Diego
Land Use and Environment Group
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 212
San Diego, CA 92101

Separation of Functions

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of this proceeding, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the Regional Board (Prosecution Staff) have been separated from those who will provide advice to the Regional Board (Advisory Staff). Members of the Advisory Staff are: Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, and David Gibson, Executive Officer. Members of the Prosecution Staff are: David Boyers, Staff Counsel, Laura Drabandt, Staff Counsel, Jeremy Haas, Senior Environmental Scientist, Michael McCann, Assistant Executive Officer, and Frank Melbourn, Water Resource Control Engineer.

Ex Parte Communications

The designated parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in *ex parte* communications regarding this matter with members of the Advisory Staff or members of the Regional Board. An *ex parte* contact is any written or verbal communication pertaining to the investigation, preparation, or prosecution of the ACL Complaint between a member of a designated party or interested party on the one hand, and a Regional Board member or an Advisory Staff member on the other hand, unless the communication is copied to all other designated and interested parties (if written) or made at a proceeding open to all other parties and interested persons (if verbal). Communications regarding non-controversial procedural matters are not *ex parte* contacts and are not restricted. Communications among the designated and interested parties themselves are not *ex parte* contacts.

Hearing Time Limits

To ensure that all participants have an opportunity to participate in the hearing, the following time limits shall apply: each designated party shall have a combined twenty (20) minutes to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses (if warranted), and provide a closing statement; and each interested person shall have three (3) minutes to present a non-evidentiary policy statement. Participants with similar interests or comments are requested to make joint presentations, and participants are requested to avoid

redundant comments. Participants who would like additional time must submit their request to the Advisory Team so that it is received no later than ten days after all of the evidence has been received (**January 28, 2010**). Additional time may be provided at the discretion of the Advisory Team (prior to the hearing) or the Regional Board Chair (at the hearing) upon a showing that additional time is necessary.

Submission of Evidence and Policy Statements

The following information must be submitted in advance of the hearing:

1. All evidence (other than witness testimony to be presented orally at the hearing) that the Designated Party would like the Regional Board to consider. Evidence and exhibits already in the public files of the Regional Board may be submitted by reference as long as the exhibits and their location are clearly identified in accordance with Title 23, CCR, section 648.3.
2. All legal and technical arguments or analysis.
3. The name of each witness, if any, whom the designated party intends to call at the hearing, the subject of each witness' proposed testimony, and the estimated time required by each witness to present direct testimony.
4. The qualifications of each expert witness, if any.
5. (County only) If the County intends to argue an inability to pay the civil liability proposed in the Complaint (or an increased or decreased amount as may be imposed by the Regional Board), the County should submit supporting evidence as set forth in the "ACL Fact Sheet" under "Factors that must be considered by the Board."
6. (County only) If the County would like to propose a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) or Compliance Project (CP) in lieu of paying some or all of the civil liability in accordance with the State Board's Water Quality Enforcement Policy, the County shall submit a detailed SEP or CP proposal including a specific implementation timetable.

The Prosecution Team shall submit two (2) hard copies of the information to Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, so that it is received no later than 5 p.m. on **December 31, 2009**.

The remaining designated parties shall submit twenty (20) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the information to Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, so that they are received no later than 5 p.m. on **January 18, 2010**.

In addition to the foregoing, each designated party shall send one (1) copy of the above information to each of the other designated parties by 5 p.m. on the deadline specified above.

Interested persons who would like to submit written non-evidentiary policy statements are encouraged to submit them to Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel, as early as possible, but they must be received by **January 27, 2010**, prior to the hearing.

Interested persons do not need to submit written comments in order to speak at the hearing.

In accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 648.4, the Regional Board endeavors to avoid surprise testimony or evidence. Absent a showing of good cause and lack of prejudice to the parties, the Regional Board may exclude evidence and testimony that is not submitted in accordance with this hearing procedure. Excluded evidence and testimony will not be considered by the Regional Board and will not be included in the administrative record for this proceeding. PowerPoint and other visual presentations may be used at the hearing, but their content may not exceed the scope of other submitted written material. A copy of such material intended to be presented at the hearing must be submitted to the Advisory Team at or before the hearing¹ for inclusion in the administrative record. Additionally, any witness who has submitted written testimony for the hearing shall appear at the hearing and affirm that the written testimony is true and correct, and shall be available for cross-examination.

Request for Pre-Hearing Conference

A designated party may request that a pre-hearing conference be held before the hearing in accordance with Water Code section 13228.15. A pre-hearing conference may address any of the matters described in subdivision (b) of Government Code section 11511.5. Requests must contain a description of the issues proposed to be discussed during that conference, and must be submitted to the Advisory Team, with a copy to all other designated parties, no later than 5 p.m. on **January 18, 2010**.

Evidentiary Objections

Any designated party objecting to written evidence or exhibits submitted by another designated party must submit a written objection so that it is received by 5 p.m. on **January 28, 2010**, to the Advisory Team with a copy to all other designated parties. The Advisory Team will notify the parties about further action to be taken on such objections and when that action will be taken.

Evidentiary Documents and File

The Complaint and related evidentiary documents are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Board office at 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123. This file shall be considered part of the official administrative record for this hearing. Other submittals received for this proceeding will be added to this file and will become a part of the administrative record absent a contrary ruling by the Regional Board Chair. Many of these documents are also posted on-line at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego. Although the web page is updated regularly, to assure access to the latest information, you may contact Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel.

¹ Each Regional Board may choose to require earlier submission of all visual aids by all parties. OE prefers early submission of visual aids, so that they have time to confirm that the aids do not go beyond the scope of previously-submitted evidence.

Questions

Questions concerning this proceeding may be addressed to Catherine Hagan, Senior Staff Counsel.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

November 30, 2009: Prosecution Team issues ACL Complaint to County and Advisory Team, sends proposed Hearing Procedure to Discharger and Advisory Team, and publishes Public Notice

December 14, 2009: Objections due on proposed Hearing Procedures. Deadline for submission of request for designated party status

December 18, 2009: Advisory Team issues Hearing Procedure

December 21, 2009: Deadline for opposition to request for designated party status.

December 31, 2009: Prosecution Team's deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above. Advisory Team issues decision on requests for designated party status, if any.

January 4, 2010: County's deadline for waiving right to hearing.

January 18, 2010: Remaining Designated Parties' Deadline for submission of all information required under "Evidence and Policy Statements," above. All Designated Parties' deadline for submission of request for pre-hearing conference.

January 27, 2010: Deadline for submission of written non-evidentiary policy statements by interested persons.

January 28, 2010: All Designated Parties' deadline for submission of rebuttal evidence (if any) and evidentiary objections. Deadline for submittal of request for additional hearing time.

February 10, 2010: Hearing

PROPOSED

DAVID W. GIBSON
Executive Officer

Date